

MINUTES

Board of Education for the County of Mingo

110 Cinderella Road, Williamson, WV 25661

Regular Meeting

December 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to order

President Slone called the meeting to order. The time was 5:03.

Board Members present were: Tom Slone, President; David Jewell, Vice President; John W. Preece, and Deanna Wellman. Braydan Goff was absent. Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch was in attendance.

Member of the Press in attendance: Bruce Justice with Mingo Messenger.

Central Office Staff in attendance: Patrick Billips, Director of Technology; Beth Daniels, CSBO / Treasurer; (Chief School Business Officer); Rocky Hall, Director of Attendance and Safe Schools; William Hensley, Director of Maintenance; Robert Channell, Director of Transportation; Mark Dean, Director of CTE/Secondary/Post-Secondary Learning; Kay Maynard, Director Child Nutrition & Wellness; Rodney McCoy, Professional Accountant; Christie Tilley, Coordinator of Parent Involvement; Leah Wireman, Director of Human Resources

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Wellman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Spotlight on Success

a. Josh Copley, Tug Valley High School, United States Senate Youth Program

Dr. Branch made the introduction. Mr. Copley explained what the US Senate Youth Program consisted of and that he had applied. Winners would go to Washington DC in early March and win a \$10,000.00 scholarship for college. He was presented a certificate. Pictures were made.

IV. Delegations

There were no delegations.

V. Out-Of-State Field Trip(s)

a. Williamson Pre K-8 8th grade trip to Dollywood

Amanda Lipps from Williamson Pre K-8 presented information for the trip. She answered questions from Board members. The trip was scheduled for June 2-4, 2025.

Mr. Preece made the motion to approve the eighth-grade trip to Dollywood for Williamson Pre K-8. Mr. Jewell seconded that motion. The vote was 4/0. The ayes had it, so ordered.

VI. General Considerations

a. Informational Item: Cell phone tower site lease.

Nancy Slone

Executive Secretary to Superintendent
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Dr. Branch spoke regarding this item. The lease amount for the cell tower was \$100 per month. The tower had not been built. Asking for more money at this time could just cut the project since we are not a high need area.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding the honorary naming of school facilities at Mingo Central High School – Marcella Charles-Casto

Mrs. Charles-Casto addressed the Board. In order to honor math teacher Christine Cline who passed away in August, the Birchfield Hallway at Mingo Central would be re-named the Cline-Birchfield Hallway. She proposed to name the auditorium in honor of their very first principal, Deborah T. Harris. Also, it was requested to rename the football complex as The James H “Buck” Harless Stadium at Yogi Kinder Field.

Mr. Preece made the motion to approve the two items. Mr. Jewell seconded that motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

c. Discussion and possible action regarding the new e-rate data contract (School System Internet)– Patrick Billips

Mr. Billips addressed the Board. The new contract would be for three years with a two-year renewal. The current monthly payment for the data lines was \$21,702 per month. With the approval of the contract, the first three years would be \$8,080, and the optional two would be \$7,240, per month.

Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve. Mrs. Wellman made the second. The motion passed with a vote of 4/0 with no opposition. The ayes had it, so ordered.

d. Discussion and possible action regarding the setting of Workshop Meeting Date to discuss finance and personnel data (tentative for 5 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2025)

There was discussion regarding this item.

Mr. Jewell made the motion to hold the Workshop on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion passed at 4/0. There was no opposition. The ayes had it, so ordered.

VII. Departmental Updates

a. Family Engagement Update- Christie Tilley

Mrs. Tilley gave an update of Family Engagement activities that had gone on in the county this year. There had been 150 volunteers approved and trained to carry out various projects. The programs included: Mental Health support for students, families, and schools; Welcome to the World reading bags; Attendance Initiatives; Red Carpet visits; Grand Families; and a Hygiene Closet. A local church would be building beds for our students. The Perk Assistants put together 475-500 backpacks each week for our students. Boxes/bags of food was distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

b. Student Attendance update – Rocky Hall

Mr. Hall made the presentation. He had a handout and explained the charts.

c. Curriculum & Instruction- Update on Principals’ data meetings, December- Dr. Branch

Dr. Branch presented this item. There was a handout. Highlights from his monthly meeting with each principal, include SIBME coaching for teachers, attendance strategies, identity of priority standards,

PLCs, student achievement plans, Power Standards, the D-F Report, Fast Forward, among other items specific to a school.

It was requested to take a 5-minute break at 6:18 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:20 p.m.

d. Maintenance Report & Facilities - William Hensley

Mr. Hensley gave the report and shared information regarding basketball goals at Dingess Elementary. There had been 21 completed projects from the CEFPP in two years. There was discussion about the Baseball Softball building at Tug Valley High School. The district would commit to the installation of the electrical and lighting. The school would contribute \$8,000 of the \$18,000 need for the spray-on-insulation.

e. Treasurer's Report - Beth Daniels - Attachment U2

Mrs. Daniels addressed the Board. We were entering the budget season and ESSERF monies had been depleted. It would be critical to visit the CEFPP plan and prioritize our needs. The presenters at the recent ASBO (finance) conference reminded all the financial personnel to be mindful of those needs. Final payroll for this year would be on December 20, 2024. The end of the year process would soon begin. Mrs. Daniels reminded the members to submit the Conflict of Interest form and the Single Audit (fraud) Questionnaire to the auditors.

VIII. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes of November 15, 2024 – Attachment M11-15
2. Minutes of November 19, 2024 - Attachment M11-19

b. Bills, Transfers, Supplements

1. Payment of Bills - Attachment F1

Bills presented for approval through December 13, 2024. The invoice list is available for review during public hours two business days prior to the meeting.

	Amount
Fund 11	\$ 709,157.28
Fund 41	\$ 21,621.70
Fund 51	\$ -
Fund 61	\$ 263,215.75
Fund 71	\$ 283,340.38

c. Personnel Actions

1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

a. New Employment into Existing Position

- i. Jeanne Scott Teacher / Special Education BK8 (effective January 6, 2025)
- ii. Sara Worley Substitute Teacher MCS (effective January 6, 2025)
- iii. Marki Maynard Substitute Teacher MCS (effective January 6, 2025)

b. Transfer into Existing Position

- i. William Josh Sammons Teacher / Health & PE MCHS to Teacher / Driver Education MCHS (effective July 1, 2025)

- ii. Kayla Ellis substitute teacher MCS to eLearning Facilitator MCHS (effective December 20, 2024)
- iii. Katrina Brewer Teacher / Math KK8 to Counselor KK8 (effective December 20, 2024)

c. Resignation

- ~~i. Billy Nicole Daniels substitute teacher MCS (effective December 23, 2024)~~
- ii. Kevin Baisden Substitute Teacher MCS (effective December 3, 2024)

d. Request for Leave of Absence

- i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 to July 31, 2025)
- ii. Nancy Kline Teacher / ELA LK8 (January 2, 2025- March 8, 2025)

2. PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS

a. New Employment for School year 2024-2025

- i. Michael Sheppard Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball BK8 (paid) (effective December 20, 2024)
- ii. Jeremy Davis Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball MCHS (effective December 20, 2024) (paid)
- iii. Kayla Ellis Assistant Coach / Cheer MCHS (effective December 20, 2024) (paid)
- ~~iv. Jon Tyler Sturgill Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball KK8 (zero comp) (pending certification) (effective December 20, 2024)~~
- v. Jonathan Blankenship Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball LK8 (zero comp) (effective December 20, 2024)
- vi. Brandon White Coach / Softball LK8 (effective December 20, 2024) (pending certification)

b. Resignations

- i. Kevin Baisden Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball MCHS (December 3, 2024)
- ii. Rob Browning Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball MCHS (effective November 15, 2024)
- iii. Pamela Chapman Coach / Volleyball WK8 (effective November 15, 2024)
- iv. Alyssa Newsome Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball TVHS (effective November 1, 2024)

3. SERVICE PERSONNEL

a. New Employment into Existing Position

- i. Debra White Substitute Secretary MCS (effective January 6, 2025)
- ii. Donovan Bishop Substitute Custodian MCS (effective January 6, 2025)
- iii. Haleigh Estep Substitute Secretary MCS (effective January 6, 2025)
- iv. Dexter Elkins Substitute Custodian MCS (effective January 6, 2025)

b. Transfer into Existing Position

- i. Rocky Church Bus Operator (Burch Area) to Bus Operator (Burch Area) (effective December 20, 2024)
- ii. Nathan Brewer Custodian III MK8 to Custodian III MK8 (effective December 20, 2024)

- iii. Annette Michelle Toler Cook II GK8 to Cook III GK8 (effective December 20, 2024)
- iv. Ryan Haugen Custodian III MCHS to Custodian IV DES (effective December 20, 2024)

c. Resignation

- i. Bethany Cisco substitute secretary MCS (effective November 20, 2024)

d. Request for Leave of Absence

- i. Angela Fleming Secretary BK8 (effective November 19-22, 2024)
- ii. Cheryl Wolford Aide / ECCAT BK8 (effective November 20, 2024)
- iii. Jamie Lewis Aide / ECCAT MK8 (effective November 15, 28 and 28, 2024)

e. Create Position

- i. Electrician II

f. Employee Discipline

- i. Nicholas Clark Suspend without pay on following days October 18, 23, 24,30, 31 November 1,7,8,14,15,20 (Total 10.375 days)

4. Volunteers 2024-2025

a. Concessions Only

- i. Aaron Brumfield
- ii. Cassie Brumfield
- iii. Ashley Barker
- iv. Harrison Baisden
- v. Mandy Starr
- vi. Tyler Scott
- vii. Stephanie Scott
- viii. Parker Akers
- ix. Jennifer Akers
- x. Michelle Hynd
- xi. Tiffany Blankenship
- xii. Eric Roberts
- xiii. Felicia Roberts
- xiv. Heather Little
- xv. Don Little
- xvi. Kyla Smith
- xvii. Daniel Smith
- xviii. Tina Spence
- xix. Kayla Stanley
- xx. Adam Stanley
- xxi. Richard Mullins
- xxii. Holli Runyon
- xxiii. Michael Runyon
- xxiv. Kim Smith
- xxv. John Smith
- xxvi. Heather Pack

- xxvii. Jarrod Belcher
xxviii. Christy Belcher
xxix. Janis Floyd
xxx. Jennifer Collins
xxxi. Justin Collins
xxxii. Laura Henry
xxxiii. Jamie Henry
xxxiv. Lacy Edminston
xxxv. Ashley Edminston

End Consent Agenda

Dr. Branch announced that on item IX. Consideration of Student Disciplinary Matter – There would be no Student Disciplinary Hearing. Student D had waived their hearing. Those would be decided upon in any Executive session that might take place.

Mrs. Wireman had two items to strike. On page two of the agenda, 1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, c. **Resignation**, i. ~~Billy Nichole Daniels substitute teacher MCS (effective December 23, 2024)~~, and from the same page, under 2. **PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS**, iv. ~~Jon Tyler Sturgill Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball KK8 (zero comp) (pending certification) (effective December 20, 2024)~~

Mrs. Wireman had one item to pull. From page three. 3. **SERVICE PERSONNEL, item f. Employee Discipline** i. _____ Suspend without pay on the following days October 18, 23, 24, 30, 31 November 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 20 (Total 10.375 days).

Mr. Preece pulled an item from page three. 2. **PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS** v. Jonathan Blankenship Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball LK8 (zero comp) (effective December 20, 2024). This was his grandson.

He requested to pull items from page two, 1. **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL d. Request for Leave of Absence**, both requests. i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 to July 31, 2025) and ii. Nancy Kline Teacher / ELA LK8 (January 2, 2025- March 8, 2025).

Mr. Slone stated Items from page three, 3. **SERVICE PERSONNEL, d. Request for Leave of Absence**, i. Angela Fleming Secretary BK8 (effective November 19-22, 2024), ii. Cheryl Wolford Aide / ECCAT BK8 (effective November 20, 2024), iii. Jamie Lewis Aide / ECCAT MK8 (effective November 15, 28 and 28, 2024)

Mr. Preece agreed to discuss each of the Requests for Leave of Absence (Professional and Service) even if they had already taken place.

From page three, Mr. Slone pulled B. **Resignations**, i. Kevin Baisden Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball MCHS (December 3, 2024) and from page two, c. **Resignation**, ii Kevin Baisden Substitute Teacher MCS (effective December 3, 2024)

Item IX. Consideration of Student disciplinary Matter would be pulled and discussed in the Executive session.

Mr. Preece made the motion to move into Executive session. Mr. Jewell seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. The time was 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Jewell made the motion to come out of Executive session. Mr. Preece seconded that motion. The vote was 4/0, no one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered. The time was 7:05.

President Slone called for a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the items that had been pulled. Mr. Preece agreed to make the motion. Mr. Jewell seconded that motion. The vote was 4/0 with no one opposed. The ayes had it, so ordered.

From page two of the agenda, item **c. Resignation**, ii. Kevin Baisden Substitute Teacher MCS (effective December 3, 2024). Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept the resignation. Both Mr. Preece and Mrs. Wellman seconded that item. The vote of 4/0 with one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page two of the agenda, item **d. Request for Leave of Absence**, i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 to July 31, 2025) Mr. Jewell made the motion to deny the leave of absence. Mr. Preece seconded this motion. The vote was 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page two of the agenda, item **d. Request for Leave of Absence**, ii. Nancy Kline Teacher / ELA LK8 (January 2, 2025- March 8, 2025). Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept the leave of absence. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page three of the agenda, item **b. Resignations**, i. Kevin Baisden Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball MCHS (December 3, 2024). Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept the resignation. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page three of the agenda, item **d. Request for Leave of Absence** i. Angela Fleming Secretary BK8 (effective November 19-22, 2024). Mr. Jewell made the motion to deny the leave of absence. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page three of the agenda, item **d. Request for Leave of Absence** ii. Cheryl Wolford Aide / ECCAT BK8 (effective November 20, 2024). Mr. Jewell made the motion to deny the leave of absence. Mrs. Wellman made the second. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From page three of the agenda, item **d. Request for Leave of Absence** iii. Jamie Lewis Aide / ECCAT MK8 (effective November 15, 28 and 28, 2024). Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept the leave of absence.

Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From Page three of the agenda, item **f. Employee Discipline** i. Nicholas Clark Suspend without pay on following days October 18, 23, 24,30, 31 November 1,7,8,14,15,20 (Total 10.375 days) Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve the suspension without pay. Mr. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

IX. Consideration of Student Disciplinary Matter

a. Expulsion of student A (Hearing waived by student and family)

b. Expulsion of student B (Hearing waived by student and family)

c. Expulsion of student C (Hearing waived by student and family)

d. Expulsion hearing of student D

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

In accordance with 6-9A-4 (3) of School Laws of West Virginia, "The governing body of a public agency may hold an executive session during a regular, special or emergency meeting . . . upon a majority affirmative vote of the members present. To decide upon disciplining, suspension or expulsion of any student in any public school . . . unless the student requests an open meeting."

Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept the expulsions for students A, B, C, and D. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0. No one opposed. Ayes had it, so ordered.

From pages 2-3 of the agenda, **2. PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS, a. New Employment for School year 2024-2025** item v. Jonathan Blankenship Assistant Coach / Boys Basketball LK8 (zero comp) (effective December 20, 2024)

Mr. Preece left the room at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept Jonathan Blankenship as the assistant Coach for Boys Basketball at Lenore K-8. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 3/0. Mr. Preece returned to meeting at 7:11 p.m.

X. Board Member Comment Period

There were some positive comments and recognitions made as well as good wishes for the coming holidays. Mr. Slone recognized special guests in the audience, Michele Blatt, State Superintendent; Mr. Jeff Kelley, Assistant State Superintendent; and Alex Criner, Director of the Office of Accountability.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Jewell made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Preece made the second. The time was 7:15 pm.

Next Regular Meeting

January 21, 2025